



Initial Farm to School Preparedness Checklist

Adapted from National Farm to School Network

Food Service

- Is food service presently buying fresh fruits/veg?
- If so, is any of the produce local?
- Have any local farmers approached the district to be a customer?
- Are there any items that could easily be swapped with local product? (ie: apples, salad bar items)
- Has FSD ever spoken with a distributor or DoD contractor about local options?
- Has the district ever applied for 10 Cents a Meal but not previously been accepted?
- Has the district participated in events like Apple Crunch?
- Are neighboring districts 10 Cents a Meal grantees?

Kitchen/equipment

- What kind of kitchen equipment does food service staff have at their disposal at present?
- What equipment might be easiest to add or would be the most helpful?
Thinking in advance of potential Build Back Better/COVID relief \$\$
- Any current familiarity with raw fruits/veg processing?
- Is staff ServSafe certified?

Storage

- Does food service have refrigerator/freezer space?
- Does food service have easily accessible dry storage space?

Volume and processing

- Can food service scale up without great difficulty?
- Can food service change the frequency of product delivery?
- Does food service have excess staff capacity and/or can they hire additional staff?
- Are there other potential resources for processing, such as high school or college culinary student programs?



Intermediate Preparedness Checklist

Current Skill Levels

- What is the current level of kitchen skills and knowledge of food service staff?
- Does food service engage in food prep trainings?
- Are there opportunities for the food service director to visit the farm?
- Can on-the-job training take place?
- Are there opportunities to partner with other districts for peer learning and/or joint trainings?

Curriculum/Admin Support

- Does the district have any existing programs that align with farm to school? Ie: Harvest of the Month, Ag in the classroom
- Do you have relationships with teachers who are interested in farm to school?
- Are there other activities going on in the district? Ie: School gardens, Nutrition education, Farm field trips
- Are administrators supportive of farm to school efforts?
- Is the school wellness policy supportive of farm to school?

Parent Interest/Relationships

- Have you made connections with local parents?
- Can you leverage interest/enthusiasm to make change in the school cafeteria for their kids?
- Are any of the parents farmers or can they help you find them?

Community Interest/Relationships

- Does your hospital, health department, or university extension office have dietitians or other nutrition educators who could help with engaging activities like taste tests?
- Are there any youth groups that could help with activities? (4-H, etc.)
- Are there any master gardeners or clubs that could help with school gardens?
- Is there a volunteer who could help share the good news of your farm to school efforts in school newsletters, school websites, and social media?